

Sacrifice and Temple

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Bryan Lawrence (he/him)

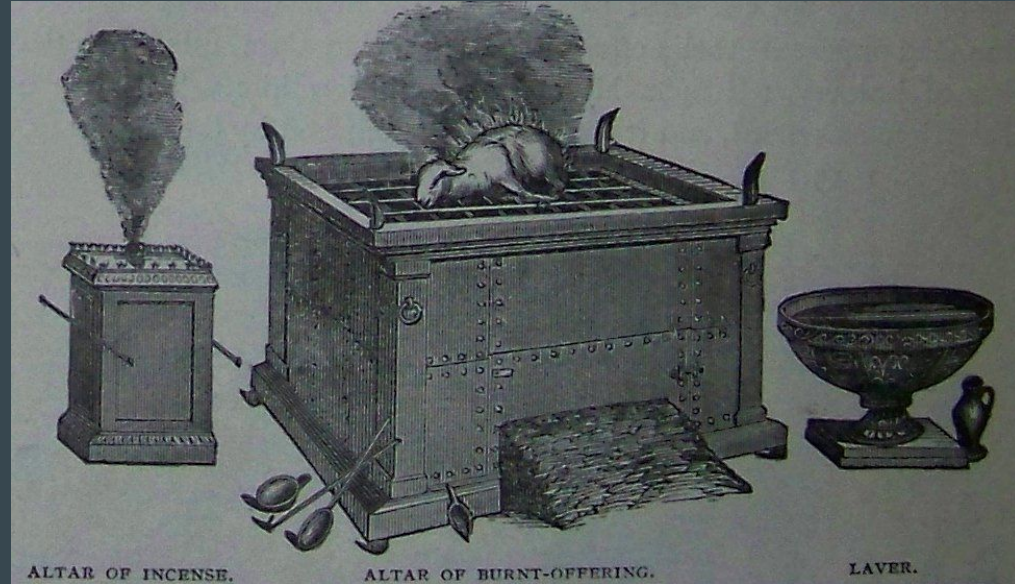
Ancient Israelite Sacrificial System

- Specific materials that were offered included: cows, sheep, goats, pigeons, turtle doves, wheat, barley, wine, oil, and salt.
- Sacrifices were required in order to “remove impurities”.
- Certain offerings were brought voluntarily to celebrate an event or seal a vow.



Animal Sacrifice

1. Whole-burnt offerings → Offering is flayed and burnt on altar.
2. Well-being offerings → These are eaten by the one who offers it.
3. Purification offerings → Brought by individuals with certain physical conditions.
4. Reparation Offerings → Offerings that were brought as reparation.



Examples of Animal Sacrifice in Gospel of Matthew

Whole-burnt offerings → Jesus' crucifixion is associated with Isaac's binding (Gen 22).

Well-being offering → Connection to all communal meals, well-being offering example (Lev 17.11).

Purification offering → Jesus' death is seen as a sin offering (Rom 8.3).

Reparation offering → It is never explicitly stated, but Isa 53.10 suggests Jesus as a reparation offering.

Temple

- Mary and Joseph, Jesus and his followers frequently visit the temple to teach and to listen.
- (Lk 19.47-48) → “Everyday he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.”



Flesh and Blood as Bread and Wine

- The narrative of the Last Supper caused a shift from animal sacrifice.
- Blood → wine
- Flesh → bread
- This ritual would evolve into the Eucharist.



Works Cited

- Meshel, Naphtali. “Sacrifice and Temple.” Pages 658-662 in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, Amy-Jill Levine and Mark Zvi Brettler, editors. Second Edition. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018.